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APPROVAL OF LARGE-SCALE UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Project title and number:	Wool Grading Centre, Hama (Supplementary Assistance) (SYR/72/007)
Executing Agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government co-operating agency:	Ministry of Industries (Union of Textile Industry)
Date of approval:	November 1978
Estimated starting date for project operations:	- 1/
Duration:	- 2/
Estimated value of the Government additional inputs expressed in US dollars	- 3/
Estimated UNDP additional contribution:	$268 900
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

1. Background

1. The project was first approved by the Administrator in October 1974 4/ to provide for the establishment of a system of wool grading and testing training activities, the improvement of sheep-shearing methods and a full examination of the possible establishment of an integrated wool textile industry. The project was expanded and extended in 1975 5/ to cover also full-scale wool scouring activities for which the

1/ Project operations started in October 1974.

2/ Including the previous extensions, the total project duration will be five years and three months.

3/ The Government will continue to provide national professional and administrative support personnel and to meet the costs of operating and maintaining various equipment.

4/ DP/PROJECTS/596.

5/ DP/PROJECTS/751.

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equipment was purchased by the Government from its own resources. Because of delays in project implementation in 1975 and 1976 related partially to UNDP's financial difficulties, the project activities were extended in 1977 through to the end of 1978.

2. The Government wishes to make use of increased quantities of indigenous wool in the local manufacture of both handknotted and machine-made carpets, and in order to achieve this, it is planning to purchase annually approximately 2,000 tons of raw wool for processing into carpet yarn.

3. The wool grading, testing and scouring activities were to run parallel to and complement each other in a combined centre established in Hama. Because of delays in construction and installation of ancillary equipment for the wool scouring machine, however, the initial trials only began in the last quarter of 1978. To meet all the original objectives of the project, the tripartite review meeting recommended the extension of project activities for an additional year, until the end of 1979.

II. The project

4. The long-range objective of the project continues to be to contribute to the better utilization of indigenous wool by the introduction of wool grading and testing, the introduction of standards for export and the scouring of raw wool.

5. The immediate objectives of the project continue to be: (a) introduction of better methods of sheep shearing; (b) development of a system for acquiring raw wool in order to ensure a sufficient supply for processing on a continuing basis; (c) establishing a wool grading and testing training centre and introducing the grading of raw wool in accordance with international standards; (d) assisting and advising wherever possible on all aspects of wool scouring activities; (e) ascertaining the best end usage for graded wool; and (f) advising the Government on the further development of the wool textile industry in the country.

6. The present Supplementary Assistance will provide for the extension of the services of the project manager and the wool scouring specialist for one year, and for the services of a mechnical engineer and some consultants, as well as for expanded training.

7. The expenditure components of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

	Previously approved		Present approval		Total approved	
	m/m	$	m/m	$	m/m	$
Experts and administrative support personnel	83.3	368 700	33.1	217 600	116.4	586 300
Subcontracts		1 000		(1 000)		-
Training		90 100		58 100		148 200
Equipment		163 300		(13 500)		149 800
Miscellaneous		16 000		7 700		23 700
		639 100		268 900		908 000

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